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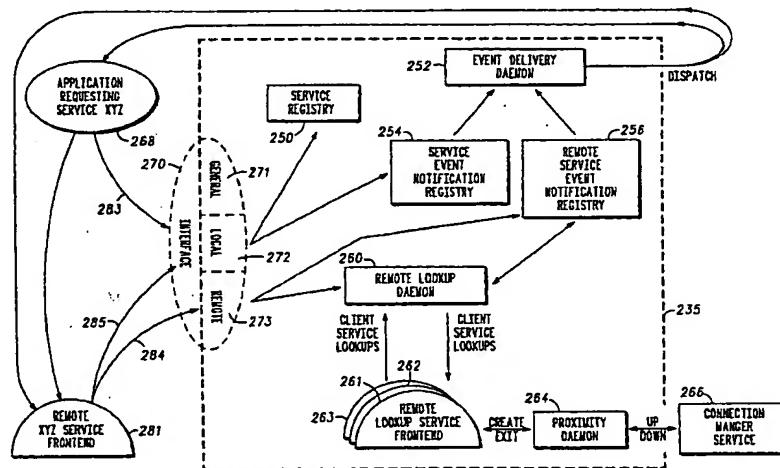
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(54) Title: HIDDEN SERVICES IN A COMMUNICATION NETWORK



(57) Abstract: In an information appliance system (100), a user device (108) comprises a client platform (200, FIG. 5) that includes a service framework (235, FIG. 5) to discover and connect with a variety of services, both remote and local, transient and persistent, and to disconnect from them when they are no longer of interest or become unavailable. The service framework (235) provides a standard, consistent, simplified way for services to make themselves available and for service-using entities to locate and connect with the services of interest to them. Certain services can be designated as "hidden" or "private" for any of several purposes. Hidden services can function in the background and be consolidated by a consolidating service for a service-requesting entity. Hidden services can be located by the service-requesting entity specifying that hidden services are to be included in a search for services. Services can also be designated as private to prevent them from being exposed to remote communications nodes (106, FIG. 1). Various methods of operating a service framework are also described.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 65207 A (MICROSOFT CORP) 16 December 1999 (1999-12-16) page 1, line 1 -page 3, line 17 page 8, line 26 -page 23, line 16	1-10
A	US 6 014 666 A (AL-GHOSEIN MOHSEN ET AL) 11 January 2000 (2000-01-11) page 2, line 49 -page 3, line 60 column 5, line 7 - line 31 column 15, line 22 -column 21, line 33	1-10
A	US 5 717 955 A (SWINEHART DANIEL C) 10 February 1998 (1998-02-10) column 10, line 58 -column 12, line 3 abstract	1-10



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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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